





STOCKTON'S NEW HOTEL



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### STOCKTON, the GATEWAY CITY

Stockton, the Gateway city of California, is situated about navigation near the San Joaquin River. It is a city of about 25,000 people, the distributing point of the San Joaquin Valley, the center of a rich agricultural district, a city of many important manufactures, the railroad focus of the interior, and acknowledged to be the only city on the Pacific Coast that showed greater activity after the financial panic of the autumn of 1907 than at any previous time in its history.

Stockton was founded prior to 1850 and got an impetus from the rush to the southern gold mines, which followed the discovery of gold. It is, consequently, one of the older settled cities of California and its advantageous location and the wonderful resources of the tributary country have made it proof against the variations of prosperity and adversity which mark the ordinary

urban communities.

It is provided with one of the finest County Courthouses in the State of California, a million-dollar State Hospital, good Post Office building, fine Library, and is rated as one of the best improved residence cities in the State of California. It is supplied with water drawn from subterranean sources, has cheap power furnished by two electric power companies direct from the Sierras, has seven banks with deposits of \$12,000,000 and a set of public schools which is conceded to be without a rival west of the Mississippi for a city of its class.

Stockton is in the center of a rich agricultural district and is the chief shipping point for the interior plain, having not only

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an open waterway that has been regularly navigated by competing steamship companies for 50 years, but has four transcontinental railways which afford the best service in distributing products to all parts of the country.

The San Joaquin river being a tidal estuary for the drainage basin of the San Joaquin Valley, affords Stockton its chief claim as an ideal shipping point for the great resources of Central California. It is due to this waterway that the chief railroads have made their way to the city and made a rate of transportation which is as low as the most favored city on the Pacific seaboard.

Stockton is the center of the flour and grain trade of California, the supply station for the southern mines, the shipping point for most of the fruit gathered in the San Joaquin Valley, and is rated as one of the most progressive and prosperous cities of the State of California. At the present time, 1908, the activity displayed at Stockton, is phenomenal and is quickly observed by all the travelers, whether from the East or from other points on the Pacific Coast. While most cities show the effects of the financial depression, Stockton has actually increased its activities and is now gathering a harvest of improvements from promotion work done by its Chamber of Commerce during the last six or seven years in the construction of fine buildings, of a Diverting Canal by the Federal Government, improvement of city streets and the construction of permanent roadways adjacent to the city, leading through the intensified districts which surround it.

The year 1908 is proving the most prosperous in the history of the city notwithstanding the retrenchment shown in other com-

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munities, as the grain crop of the surrounding country turned out much better than was anticipated and the largest fruit crop is now being harvested that was ever known in the history of this portion of the State. Thus a combination of influences has brought a continuance of good times which the inhabitants claim cannot in future be impaired as the resources of the surrounding region are of such staple products as will guarantee a continuous

stream of revenue to the producers the year around.

Stockton many years ago developed natural gas and that is the chief fuel now used for domestic purposes and is supplied at rates fixed by the city Council. It has a climate equal to any in California for mildness and healthfulness and has numerous attractions in the direction of public parks and squares, theaters that maintain continuous performances, and one of the finest equipped mineral baths adjacent to any city in the West. A Tourist Hotel, costing between four and five hundred thousand dollars is now being erected and asphalt pavements are being put down on six miles of the city streets.

Numerous local improvements are in progress and a Highway Commission has been appointed to designate the principal roadways radiating from Stockton with a view to the expenditure of a million dollars or more for the macadamizing of these highways to afford better means of transportation and travel across the plains and through the gardens and vineyards of one of the adjacent agricultural regions on the Western Continent.

Stockton has an excellent street car service by two competing

electric traction companies.

# W. P. Fuller & Co.

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STOCKTON :: CALIFORNIA

